Regular meeting with the following present: Mayor Mark Bowen; Alderman Jerry Stone, Rudy Hernandez, Sam Cortez, Erik Dahler; City Secretary Josie Campa; Police Chief Richard Priest, City Attorney Tom Cate; Director of Public Works James McGrath.


APPROVE MINUTES AND APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS
City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that she had received a bill from Tom Cate for legal services in the amount of $751.00. Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council approve the minutes of the public hearings and regular meeting held May 12th and payment of the bills, as presented. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

HEAR FROM CITIZENS
Mayor Bowen told Council about Gabe Garcia being in Nashville Star competition on television.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROMAMY EDGE FOR AUTOMATIC BILL PAY OR ON-LINE OR ELECTRONIC BILL PAY
Amy Edge was not present, so City Secretary Josie Campa told Council that Amy Edge had requested an automatic bill pay on-line system or electronic bill pay. She told Council that e-pay is already being done and Mrs. Edge had been told, but she does not want to have to pay a fee to pay her bill that way. After discussion, it was agreed the City Secretary would check with the bank about payments over the phone. No action taken.
Minutes of Regular Meeting held June 9, 2008 (cont.)

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM HECTOR RAMOS FOR HAVING A CONSTRUCTION WATER METER ON A FIRE HYDRANT
Hector Ramos was not present, so the City Secretary told Council that Mr. Ramos was doing a construction project for the Catholic Church and needs to get water from a fire hydrant, and due to the ordinance, this is prohibited. Council discussed this matter and agreed that due to the construction being in the city, that a meter could be allowed to be placed on a fire hydrant. Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council grant a variance only for this construction project, and that this be monitored by the Director of Public Works. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM BLUEBONNET CHILDREN’S CENTER FOR BEING ADDED TO 2009 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET-LISA BALLESTEROS
Lisa Ballesteros was not present because her request was to be placed on the July agenda.

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR CLOSING OFF PORTION OF ADAMS STREET ON NATIONAL NIGHT OUT-CHRISTI VAUGHN
Christi Vaughn explained the National ANight Out Program and asked Council if a portion of Adams Street could be closed off for this event to be held in October. Mrs. Vaughn also stated she would like for the city to participate in this program. After discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council approve Mrs. Vaughn’s request to close off a portion of Adams Street for National Night Out to be held in October. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER UTILITIES FOR PROPOSED MOTEL 6-PRADIP BHAKTA
Pradip Bhakta told Council he has a contract on property to build a Motel 6, and utilities needed for this project are not available at this time. Mayor Bowen told Council that Mr. Bhakta had been given ball park figures for utility extensions. Council discussed utility extensions being developer’s cost and whether the city would be willing to work with Mr. Bhakta on getting utilities to that area. After more discussion; Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council hold a workshop on July 1st to look at this matter, and have the engineer be present, as well as the County Judge, the IH 35 Corridor people and other interested parties. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM HORATIO GARCIA TO WAIVE PENALTY AND INTEREST ON DELINQUENT TAX ACCOUNT DUE TO ERROR BY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
Tax Collector Josie Campa told Council that the Appraisal District had made an error on Mr. Garcia’s tax statement and therefore, Mr. Garcia was asking penalties and interest be waived. She recommended Council waive the penalty and interest for Mr. Garcia. Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council waive the penalty and interest, as requested. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM ATASCOSA COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT TO MAINTAIN AN ACCOUNT FOR CAPITAL REPLACEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT RESERVE
After discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council grant the request from the Atascosa County Appraisal District to maintain an account for capital replacement and improvement reserve. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR CLEARING LAND ON FM 3175
City Secretary Josie Campa read the three proposals for clearing the land at the sewer plant. The first proposal was from Randall Ritchie for $15,500.00 and the second was from Davenport Farms for $5,950.00. She said the proposal from Mike Villarreal for $13,750.00, but it was not received by the deadline. She told Council each had been taken to the property and shown what needing to be done. After discussion, Alderman Stone made the motion that Council accept the bid from Davenport Farms. Seconded by Alderman Hernandez. Discussion. Mr. Stone amended his motion to include that the contractor sign a full waiver and the City Attorney take care of this waiver. Alderman Hernandez seconded the amendment to the motion. Passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION WITH CPS ENERGY REPRESENTATIVE LISA PONCE ON ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND
Lisa Ponce, representative from CPS Energy explained the Electrical Infrastructure Fund to Council. Mrs. Ponce gave handouts to all of the Council members. There was a discussion on projects that can be funded by this program, and time frame for spending this money. No action was taken.
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CONSIDER PROPOSAL FROM WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR PICKING UP BRUSH

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council about the proposal from Waste Management for picking up brush. After discussion, Alderman Dahler made the motion to accept Waste Management's proposal for picking up brush. Seconded by Alderman Hernandez. Discussion was held on getting the word out to the public. Ms. Campa told Council she would put it in the newspaper and post notices. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER FILLING VACANCY ON COUNCIL

Mayor Bowen told Council his old position on the Council was vacant and two people were interested in this Council seat. The Mayor asked Council to think about this, and if Council wants to interview both parties at a special meeting. Council members agreed both men would be good for this position. After more discussion, Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council have both men attend the special meeting on July 1st for interviews. Seconded by Alderman Cortez. Passed unanimously.

Council took a short break at 8:10 p.m., and reconvened at 8:20 p.m.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES

City Secretary asked Council to stipulate that a prosecutor be in Municipal Court in the future. Municipal Court Judge Gerry Elias told Council that at the last school he attended they had told judges to have a prosecutor present during court. Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council reappoint Gerry Elias as Municipal Court Judge and Deborah Herrera as Associate Judge. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER BAN OF FIREWORKS IN CITY DUE TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS

After discussion, Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council accept the proposed ban on fireworks. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER JUNK VEHICLE PROBLEM IN CITY

Police Chief Richard Priest asked Council to give him some direction on how to solve the junk vehicle problem in the city. He told Council that he and the Mayor physically inspected the city to check on the number of junk vehicles and to get a plan for correcting the problem. After a lengthy discussion, Mayor Bowen said this item would be back on the agenda in July.

CONSIDER ORDINANCE ON WATER RESTRICTIONS DUE TO DROUGHT CONDITIONS

Council discussed the need for a stricter ordinance for water restrictions during a drought. Council discussed things that could be done if people do not cut back on water usage as called for in the ordinance and the possibility of tiered rates to get people to comply with restrictions. City Attorney Tom Cate said he could check on actions that Council could take. After more discussion, Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council get the word out that if the city is penalized for not cutting back on water usage in a critical period that all water customers will pay these penalties, but water abusers will pay more. Seconded by Alderman Hernandez. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER PROPOSAL FOR ELECTRICAL WORK FOR CITY HALL AND AMBULANCE BUILDING

City Secretary Jose Campa explained to Council that when the renovations started on the EMS building, problems were found with the electrical work and it will have to be redone. She said problems were then found with the electric connections on the City Hall building and repairs need to be made. The secretary told Council she did not receive a proposal from the electrician as planned, because CPS never got back to him. She told Council if the problems with the City Hall electricity are anything like the EMS building then a ball park figure of $25,000 for the two buildings is possible. After a lengthy discussion, no action was taken, since a proposal was not ready.

CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF POLICE OFFICER JOE TORRES

Police Chief Richard Priest told Council that Joe Torres had completed probation satisfactorily and recommended he be hired as a regular officer and be given a $100.00 per month raise and full benefits. Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council hire Joe Torres as a regular police officer and he be given a salary increase of $100.00 per month and full benefits. Seconded by Alderman Hernandez. Passed unanimously.
CONSIDER BODY ARMOR FOR PART-TIME/NON-PAID POLICE OFFICERS

Chief Priest asked Council for permission to purchase body armor for non-paid/part-time police officers. He told Council no additional funding is needed to do this and explained the problems he has at this time since officers can't afford these vests. The Chief said an agreement could be drawn up and the cost of these vests be pro-rated at $10.00 a month of service by each non-paid officer receiving the body armor. After discussion, Alderman Hernandez made the motion that Council approve the Chief's request. Seconded by Alderman Stone. Discussion. Passed unanimously. Chief Priest told Council he isn't talking about having to buy any body armor at this time.

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF WATER RIGHTS

City Secretary Josie Campa told Council about the proposals she had received for the city purchasing water rights. She said she had received a price of $5,500.00 per acre foot for 200 acre feet plus a $5,000.00 finder’s fee. She said the other price was $5,400.00 an acre foot for up to 50 acre feet. After a lengthy discussion, Alderman Hernandez made the motion that the City purchase water rights from Bob Roberts at $5,400.00 an acre foot up to $120,000.00 and ask for right of refusal. Seconded by Alderman Dahler. Passed unanimously.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF DEPARTMENT LIAISONS

Council discussed liaisons for city departments. Mayor Bowen asked Council members to choose department(s) they would like to work with. Alderman Jerry Stone chose the Sewer Dept.; Alderman Hernandez selected Park and Police Department. Alderman Dahler chose the Water and Gas Departments. Mayor Bowen picked the Fire Department and RMS. Council discussed the role of a liaison and agreed the other department liaisons could wait until the next meeting.

CONSIDER HAVING CITY’S DELINQUENT TAX ROLL PRINTED IN CITY’S OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

Alderman Dahler made the motion that Council have the city’s delinquent tax roll printed in the city’s official newspaper. Seconded by Alderman Hernandez. Passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS’ REPORT

Director of Public Works James McGrath reported on the following:

1-176 work orders completed last month;
2-TCEQ inspected sewer plant and city received one write-up;
3-crew worked at Frenchie Burke Festival;
4-six (6) water leaks fixed;
5-one (1) sewer stoppage unclogged;
6-two (2) has leaks fixed;
7-two (2) new water meters installed;
8-so update on ground storage tanks construction;
9-reported storage tanks will be shut down for about a month for this construction and city's storage and pumping capacity during this time will be cut drastically. City Secretary Josie Campa told Council she would notify the public and ask them to cut back on water usage due to tank construction and shut down.

Mayor Bowen told Council that the engineer is looking at a file that shows where valves were placed on the 18-inch dedicated line and will get back to us. The Mayor also told Council that now is not the right time to install a valve because of the construction being done on the ground storage tank.

POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT

Police Chief Richard Priest reviewed his written report with Council.

The Chief told Council that following:

1-tickets were up due to “Click It or Ticket” program;
2-terminated Reserve Officer Jerry Rodriguez due to an incident not related to the job;
3-will have training session on emergency messaging system on Thursday;
4-will need to get information cards to people for this messaging system;
5-he and Matt Dear will be attending a school next week;
6-Sergeant Reyes back from vacation;
7-officers will be attending two (2) more schools and are taking vacations;
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CITY SECRETARY'S REPORT
City Secretary asked Council if they had any questions on her written report.

The Secretary told Council she had eighteen (18) applicants already for the vacant position in the office.

Council asked the City Secretary to get a 2005 comparison on the water usage.

MAYOR'S REPORT
Mayor Bowen told Council that liaisons are for helping department heads when they need help from Council.

The Mayor said he feels the Council is a strong team, and that they will have tough issues to think about in the future.

The Mayor told Council he would like to involve the community more in city matters.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Mayor

City Secretary